

The Summer of 2014

In the summer of 2014, along with three other ACU students, I had the unique opportunity to travel to China and South Korea with Dr. Kilnam Cha from the ACU Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry. What made this experience unique was traveling with a professor I have had on two occasions: Introduction to the New Testament in Spring 2012 and Abrahamic Faiths in Spring 2014. The familiarity proved to be comforting in a foreign culture, much different from any of the other study abroad programs offered by ACU, and it allowed me and my friends (who have also been students of Dr. Cha) to have a more open and nurturing experience as we worked through cultural differences and encouraged each other in our journey through a foreign land. Dr. Cha became not only a tour guide (at least in South Korea) on our mission trip, but also a mentor who challenged us to question our understandings of ourselves, our faith and the new environment in which we found ourselves. I am grateful for the opportunity to travel with Dr. Cha to China and South Korea to see Christianity in a new and different context, as we had spent so long discussing in our Abrahamic Faiths class in Spring 2014. Learning about global religions is something most university students do, but very few have the opportunity to extend that classroom abroad on a mission trip. ACU is blessed to have professors such as Dr. Kilnam Cha, not only because of his academic excellence and Christ-like character, but also for the opportunities and connections he brings to ACU and its students.

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